

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00

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O P 251430 Z MAY 73

FM USDEL SALT TWO II

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2012

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

S E C R E T USDEL SALT TWO II 213

EXDIS/ SALT

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - II, 2 N D P A R A G R A P H L A S T S E N T E N C E

DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT FOR SECDEF

EO 11652: XGDSI

TAGS: PARM

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT OF MAY 25, 1973

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON
AT THE MAY 25, 1973 SALT MEETING.

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON
MAY 25, 1973

MR MINISTER:

I

SINCE OUR LAST MEETING WE HAVE ONCE AGAIN REVIEWED
CAREFULLY THE SOVIET STATEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PRESENTED
SINCE THE RESUMPTION OF OUR SESSION ON MAY 4. IN THE INTEREST
OF AVOIDING ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN OUR TALKS, I WILL ADDRESS
TODAY AN ISSUE THAT WAS INCLUDED IN THESE SOVIET STATEMENTS.

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II

THE SOVIET SIDE HAS SAID, MOST RECENTLY ON MAY 22, THAT " AN UNDERSTANDING ON MORE COMPLETE MEASURES LIMITING STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS MUST INCLUDE THE PRINCIPLE PROVISIONS OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT IN THE FORM IN WHICH THEY WERE AGREED TO BETWEEN THE SIDES . . ." ON THAT DATE THE SOVIET SIDE ALSO STATED, " THEREFORE THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT, NOW IN FORCE, WHICH WERE AGREED BETWEEN THE SIDES, INCLUDING THOSE ON QUESTIONS OF LIMITING ICBM' S, SLBMS AND SUBMARINES, ARE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AND MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS, AND DO NOT REQUIRE CHANGING IN THE CONTEXT OF WORKING OUT A FUTURE UNDERSTANDING ON MORE COMPLETE MEASURES." THE US POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT IS WELL KNOWN AND IT HAS NOT CHANGED. OUR PRINCIPAL TASK IN SALT TWO IS TO DEVELOP A PERMANENT AGREEMENT LIMITING STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS WHICH WILL REPLACE THE INTERIM AGREEMENT. THE VERY TITLE OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT MAKES CLEAR THAT IT IS A TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT, ONE WHICH IS TO REMAIN IN FORCE FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS " UNLESS REPLACED EARLIER BY AN AGREEMENT ON MORE COMPLETE MEASURES LIMITING STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS."

A PERMANENT AGREEMENT MUST PROVIDE EQUAL SECURITY WITH NO UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE TO EITHER SIDE AND MUST PROVIDE FOR ESSENTIAL EQUIVALENCE BETWEEN THE CENTRAL STRATEGIC SYSTEMS OF THE TWO SIDES. AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY STATED, WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE FOR AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT IS NOT THE SAME AS WHAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE FOR A PERMANENT AGREEMENT. ARTICLE VII OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT CLEARLY STATES THAT THE SIDES AGREE THAT " THE OBLIGATIONS PROVIDED FOR IN THIS INTERIM AGREEMENT SHALL NOT PREJUDICE THE SCOPE OR TERMS OF THE LIMITATIONS ON OFFENSIVE STRATEGIC ARMS WHICH MAY BE WORKED OUT IN THE COURSE OF FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS."

ON MAY 18 I STATED THAT THE QUEST
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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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